ing means comprising a sorting station comprising means for releasing selected balls in belt holes by allowing the balls to drop away from said belt under the action of gravity,

said apparatus further comprising a substantially horizontally extending support disposed beneath a top section of said belt in said looped path, adjacent said second area, and wherein said sorting station comprises a selectively blockable slot having a horizontal dimension significantly greater than the diameter of a ball, and formed in said substantially horizontal support; an exposition station formed between said sorting station and said first roller, by said substantially horizontal support, at which station balls selectively disposed in holes in said belt are freely accessible for tactile perception, printing means being disposed between said exposition station and said first area of said looped path for producing permanent raised dot matrix impressions in sheet material,

said apparatus further comprising a plurality of obstacles disposed beneath said slot to either block, or allow, the dropping of a bail through said slot at a predetermined hole in said belt, and control means for controlling selective movement of said obstacles between said blocking, and dropping-allowing, positions; said obstacles comprising piezoelectric rods fastened at one end thereof, and bendable under the influence of electrical control signals controlled by a computer.

7. Apparatus as recited in claim 6 wherein said means for mounting said belt comprises first and second rollers, each rotatable about a generally horizontal axis, said roller axes being parallel.

8. Apparatus as recited in claim 7 wherein said roller axes are disposed with respect to each other so that said first area of said looped path and said second area of said looped path are both generally horizontal.

9. Apparatus as recited in claim 6 further comprising, at said sorting station, a plurality of electromagnets located above said looped path and positioned to, when energized, hold a ball in a belt hole in which it is disposed so that said ball will not drop out of said belt hole, and when de-energized not providing a ball holding action.

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